

hæmorrhagic cases would seem to indicate, the present epidemic is of a relatively mild type, then with our present powers of quarantine and segregation, even did the pestilence gain entry into the country, there is, in my opinion, singularly little chance of its spreading, unless indeed—and this is on the whole unlikely—it suddenly increases greatly in virulence. All that I wish to urge is that reasonable precautions should now be taken to guard against its entrance, and that the present is a particularly favourable time to seek out and remove the weak spots in our hygienic defences, and if, as is the case in Montreal, there are foul and utterly unhealthy areas in the city, now is the acceptable moment for cleansing those areas.

It follows therefore that the quarantine officers at all our ports, both on the Atlantic and on the Pacific, receive the fullest instructions to be on guard against the entrance of infected individuals or infected goods, and that everywhere, but more especially in our seaport towns, the ordinary practitioner be on the alert to recognize the first case, or first symptoms of the disease. We are glad to assure our readers that under the able direction of Dr. Montizambert, all official precautions are being taken. Only within the last few days a bacteriological laboratory has been inaugurated in connection with the quarantine service at Victoria, B.C., and Dr. Charles Higgins, Assistant Pathologist and Bacteriologist to the Department of Agriculture, a thoroughly capable and reliable official, has been placed in charge. At the Atlantic ports also care is being taken to obtain sure diagnosis and segregation of any suspected cases. It is opportune, however, to collect here into a brief and succinct form the main characteristics of the disease and the means of diagnosing and of preventing the spread of the same, so that the general practitioner be not perchance caught napping.

#### THE NATURE OF THE PLAGUE AND ITS CHARACTERISTIC SYMPTOMS.

What then is the plague? It is a disease caused by infection by a specific bacillus, manifesting itself more particularly as a malignant lymphadenitis, and its characteristic symptom, that which distinguishes it from all other epidemic diseases, is the production of buboes. Just as in cholera, the mucous membrane of the intestine is the tissue of election, and in small-pox the skin—so in the Plague it is the lymph glands which are especially picked out, and here, I may add, it is that the specific bacteria of the disease are to be detected in profuse abundance. But again, just as one may occasionally come across a case of typhoid in which there are no enlarged Peyer's patches, so occasionally a case of plague presents no enlarged subcutaneous lymph glands—while, apparently more frequently than is the case with typhoid, the